

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 774

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to commend Dott Adam Baker for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this General Assembly to pause to expressly recognize those venerable public servants who have dedicated themselves to enhancing the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dott Adam Baker is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a businessman in the South Knoxville community, Mr. Baker has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, born on May 1, 1919, in Sevier County, Mr. Baker is the son of the Reverend and Mrs. Arthur Freeman Baker; and

WHEREAS, while his father attended Southern Seminary, Mr. Baker and his family resided in Louisville, Kentucky, and it was at this time that he began cultivating his keen business skills by selling newspapers at Churchill Downs; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Knoxville in the 1930s, Mr. Baker lived in the Mountain View Community, where his father was the Pastor of the Baptist Church, and graduated from Knoxville High School; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife began the Dott Baker Agency in 1954 and for almost five decades, Mr. Baker sold insurance and real estate in South Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, assiduously working to advance his community, Dott Baker was instrumental in the development of several subdivisions including Grandview, Crossfield, Woodfield Park, Wildwood, and View Park; has represented numerous builders; and has sold homes and insurance to hundreds of citizens of South Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, a businessman of the utmost integrity, Dott Baker has established himself as a highly regarded and active member of his community, a capacity in which he was named Executive of the Year by the Insurance Women of Knoxville; he served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce; he participated in the early planning stages of the 1982 World's Fair; he was instrumental in the development of the South Knoxville Bridge; he served as a member of the Metropolitan Planning Commission from July 1986 to 1994; as a member of the Lions Club, he helped host their International Convention held in Gatlinburg; he is a Mason; and he is actively involved in the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, having received numerous accolades, Mr. Baker was named a "Tennessee Colonel" by Governor Lamar Alexander in 1983 and was named a "Kentucky Colonel" in 1972; he also has proudly chauffeured many dignitaries in parades in his 1938 Rolls-Royce; and

WHEREAS, an avid supporter of the University of Tennessee football program, Mr. Baker was a member of the Most Loyal Vol Fan Club and continues to hold season tickets; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker greatly enjoys the pastime of golf, and for many years he could be found on the golf course with friends "having the time of their life"; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Baker has "lived his faith in the community" as a member of Valley Grove Baptist Church for almost fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Dott Baker's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dott Baker is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of sixty-four years, Susie, and he is most proud of their three daughters and sons-in-law, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dott Baker is altogether faithful to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dott Adam Baker for his laudable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, honor his myriad accomplishments, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.